Record and Chronicle

Maintained by

THE HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL SURGERY

for Dispensing *the* Family Gossip *to our* Members *with the* Armed Forces

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Farmer Van stopped in from Connecticut the other day looking mighty hale and hearty. He tributes his good healthy looks to his sojourn in Florida, the fine country air of Connecticut and to porch sitting which he recommends highly.

Dr. Wilson had a phone call from Lieut. Col. Bob Patterson who has returned from the E.T.O. He was on his way to visit his family up Westchester way. We are looking forward to a visit from Bob and hope to be able to report further regarding his activities.

We are happy to have received a letter from Major Bill Duncan who has written Dr. Wilson under date of July 8th. Among other things, he writes, "In February of '44 my field hospital was redeployed from the Aleutians to England and shortly after arrival here I was delighted to be transfered to the 61st General Hospital, near Oxford. Quite a happy step from a supply officer and general yardbird in a field hospital to chief of section in a general hospital. We have been stationed at Burford and have had frequent and easy access to the Churchill Hospital and adjacent pubs and golf courses. Our main professional concern has been compound fractures and during the year, we have learned something about secondary closure, skin grafting and wounds. We would like to think that our results (94% primary union) could be attributed to surgical skill, but we all realize that any success was won by 'the battle of the bottles'--bottles of blood, plasma, penicillen, and toxoid. Last summer, our hospital was designated as the first hand center in the E.T.O. For no special reason other than in segregating our battle casualties by wards (femurs, forearms, etc.), we ended up with three wards of hand cases which presented such a terrifying problem that the powers that be, decided to centralize hand surgery. After that we received hand cases from far and wide and our troubles really began." In speaking of the various directives, Bill continues, "My file of same will be my only proof to show my grandchildren how often I was wounded in World War II. Up until last week, I was awaiting redeployment to the Pacific, via the states. My 85 points (a large share of which I owe to Mary) and the fact that I had been to the Pacific once apparently made no difference. Through some act of providence I was suddently transfered to the 7th General Hospital (Boston City Unit) to await air transport home and re-assignment to a general hospital in the states. I have thoroughly enjoyed my stay in England and have a great deal of admiration for the English people. The weather has come in for a share of unfavorable comment, but I have yet to hear any just criticism of the patience and courage of the people. I have noted no change of heart or tendency to forget now that we have outlived our utility and run out of chewing gum. My best regards to the gang at R. & C. and many thanks for the enjoyable Record & Chronicle."

We are also happy to report having heard from Major Charles Burstein. As you will see, his letter fits in well at this point. He writes, under date of

July 9th, "I am writing you from Paris where I was sent on a week's T.D. to give several lectures in anesthesia. It looks like this may be my last 'sortie' before returning to the U.S. Bill Duncan was a neighbor of mine for the last year, and I know that R. & C. can well be proud of him. He was really outstanding and admired in our center. Paris is gradually regaining its reputation of 'La Ville Lumiere', many thanks for which are greatly due to the U. S. Forces in many respects. It is a grand feeling to have helped do a good job, but it will be just as grand to be back with you and the rest at R. & C. Kindest regards to all."

We are also glad to report having received a letter from Lt. Cmdr. Horwich. He writes the Editor, "It was a pleasant surprise having heard from you, although I have avidly digested your opus, which I have received almost regularly. (Editor's Note: We would like to hear from some of the other letters which the Editor sent out in his effort to gather news for our readers.) You are mistaken in thinking I am with the Seabees, although there are many of them here doing a real good job. I am attached to Military Government and, at present, doing the orthopaedics in a 1200 bed civilian hospital in a well publicized island in the Pacific. I have seen plenty of action, and I have spent many a night in a foxhole. We have native nurses and recently acquired some Korean Geisha girls, who make good nurses. That's as far as I know. Kindest regards to the gang." Thanks, Dave, for the souvenirs which you enclosed.

Arthur Krida has recently returned from his favorite fishing stream in Maine and reports having had good catches of a number of landlocked salmon. Ralph Kahle reports having been fishing up in Canada and has promised to give us an account of it.

The performance statistics of the Seventh War Loan of the 33 voluntary hospitals of Manhattan has been received. The goal was $20,000,000, and the results were over $43,000,000. Out of 33 hospitals in Manhattan, Special Surgery has a record of which it can be proud. The credit must again be given to Mr. T. Gordon Young, who headed the War Loan Drive here at the hospital, and all the many employees and members of the volunteer staff who worked to achieve the goal. Special Surgery stood 7th of the 33 hospitals in total achievement or $1,421,647.85, 8th in the average employee purchase or $38.31, and 9th in the total individual sales or $186,647.85.

We were delighted to have Lieut. Verona Hardy stop in to pay us a visit. She has just returned from the E.T.O. and looks hale and "Hardy". As a physical therapist she landed in North Africa in March 1943 with a general hospital, and after being there nine months, went directly to Italy, landing in Naples. She was in Italy for eighteen months. Her European campaign ribbon has two battle stars representing the Anzio Cassino and the Arno Rome campaigns. Among her many comments about her experiences in Italy, she spoke very highly of Bill Maudlin and his cartoons, how well he portrays the G.I. of the Italian campaign, and what an outlet he gave to the G.I.'s in having someone to express their feelings and experiences.

Our clipping service has sent us a clipping from "Top Billings", a publication of the Billings General Hospital, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, showing a picture of our own Ernie Burgess. The news item reads as follows: "Although he has been at Billings for only six months Lt. Burgess has made a place for himself here, and we are going to miss him when those orders for the South Pacific come in. Lt. Burgess had charge of osteomyelitis and skin grafting work at the hospital and

did a marvelous job in recuperating the most serious cases. The Lt. graduated from Columbia University and took his orthopedic training at the Hospital for Specialized Surgery in New York City where he was associated with Colonel Fischer. He also worked with the famous orthopedic surgeon, Roger Anderson. Before entering the service, Lt. Burgess, his wife and two sons, lived in Seattle, Washington, where he was chief-of-staff in a hospital for workers in the Kaiser plants. We're sorry to see you leave, Lt. and the best of Good Luck."

K. G. Hansson has received a letter of commendation from the Office of the Surgeon General for the number of physical therapists which were trained here at the hospital in the War Emergency Training Courses for Physical Therapists. To quote in part from the letter, "It may be of interest to you to know that several of your students have been commissioned in the Army of the United States and assigned as Medical Department Physical Therapists upon completion of the six months period of apprenticeship. The Surgeon General has requested that you be advised of his deep appreciation of your cooperation in conducting the emergency training program to prepare physical therapists for a commission and assignment in the Medical Department of the Army."

Miss Kathleen Kelly, one of our Operating Room nurses, has received a letter from Lt. Dorothy Eck, formerly a nurse in our Operating Room. She writes on board an Army hospital ship on its way to this country. She tells us she had a chance to do a little sightseeing in Winchester, England. She saw the castle and King Arthur's Round Table and visited the "famous and beautiful Winchester Cathedral". She writes, "Tuesday a.m. we loaded. If you never got a strange feeling of half joy and half wanting to cry you should watch a hospital ship load sometime. Honestly, we watched for a few minutes and could have cried. When you think of the thrill the fellows are getting starting home, it really does something to you to see them carried on board. By noon our ward was loaded - 110 of the sickest patients, leg amputations, spica casts, colostomies, etc..... I have worked some in my short nursing career, but never like I have recently. 35 re-dressings on the ward. Most of the patients can't get out of bed at all. The ward is better equipped than many hospitals I have been in. The whole ship is for that matter. The patients are grand, happy to be going home and most appreciative." We learn that Lt. Eck is wearing a "gorgeous" diamond on her left hand. Best Wishes, Lieutenant. We noticed in the Herald Tribune of Friday, July 27th, that the ship on which Lt. Eck is nursing has returned to Europe with 1500 prisoners of war, patients who were ill or injured when captured.

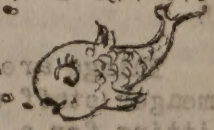
In our last issue, we gave the wrong address for G.I. Theodore G. Young. It should be Company D, 204 Bn., 63 Rgt., Camp Blanding, Fla.

Sgt./T John A. Gaffney, son of Mrs. Rose Gaffney in the Laboratory, has just returned from the E.T.O., after being over there 18 months with General Patton's 3rd Army. After a 35 day furlough, he is to report to North Carolina. His European campaign ribbon has five stars, representing five different campaigns. He also received a Presidential Citation with an Oak Leaf Cluster for meritorious service.

Things are slowing up considerably here at the hospital. A large number of our meager staff are leaving on vacations. The Editor is going to do a little porch sitting for a couple of weeks and the next two issues of the Record & Chronicle will be edited by Mrs. Edward R. Brehm, Acting Assistant to the Director.

Ye Editor ordered a cartoon to fill up this page, subject to be: "Waves come aboard the U.S.S. Special Surgery for Instruction in their Rehabilitation Training Program." - showing the 115 Waves (with a sparse scattering of sailors) approaching the façade of 321 East 42nd Street, two by two.

This proved, after three attempts, to be too much for this tired old artist (?), who is suffering from eye-trouble and the sore need of a little porch-sitting herself. (I'd rather have a hay-field than a porch.) So may she substitute a few words about this somewhat heavy surf which struck but failed to inundate old Special Surgery this humid month.

These Waves appeared at 8.00 A.M. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, surging up to the Lecture Hall. There they were met by our distinguished lecturers: Dr. Niebauer rattled a handsome skeleton at them for Anatomy, Miss Westervelt twisted live victims to demonstrate Kinesiology, Dr. Hansson talked of Heat Therapy and Hydrotherapy, Dr. Wilson described what made their backs ache so, Dr. Freyberg put the fear of Arthritis into them, and so on. Some of these lecturers used lantern slides, which Mrs. Fischer of Photography projected with the usual number of mishaps. One little Wavelet welcomed the appearance of the old projector with glee: "Goody, I can always sleep better with the room darkened." Thus you see a good time was had by all. If the U.S.S. seemed to list a trifle to starb'd on these mornings, she has righted herself very well now; the Waves have rippled away until next October, which gives her ample time to go into drydock for a little freshening. Me too!

Faithfully yours,
Ye erstwhile artist.